

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01319

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SHUM, CY, TU
SUBJECT: FCO ON CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS

REFERENCE: (A) LONDON 1256; (B) LONDON 335

1. SUMMARY: THE EC MEDITERRANEAN EXPERTS COMMITTEE HAS
RECOMMENDED THAT THE EC SEEK TO GIVE THE TURKS TIME, AT
LEAST TWO MONTHS, TO PREPARE THEIR REBUTTAL TO THE CON-
TROVERSIAL REPORT ON TURKISH ATROCITIES IN CYPRUS, SO AS
TO TRY TO AVOID JEOPARDIZING NEGOTIATIONS IN CYPRUS.
END SUMMARY

2. CORMACK, ASSISTANT HEAD OF FCO SOUTHERN EUROPEAN
DEPARTMENT, BRIEFED EMBOFF JANUARY 25 ON RECENT DE-
VELOPMENTS REGARDING CYPRUS, PARTICULARLY THE COUNCIL OF
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EUROPE REPORT ON TURKISH ATROCITIES, AS FOLLOWS: THIS
REPORT BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS THE
PRINCIPAL TOPIC AT THE EC MEDITERRANEAN EXPERTS COM-
MITTEE MEETING ON JANUARY 19. ALL MEMBERS REALIZED HOW
SENSITIVE THE ISSUE IS. THE PROBLEM IS HOW THE EC SHOULD
PLAY ITS HAND BETWEEN ITS TWO OBJECTIVES OF 1) SPINNING
THE HEARINGS OUT LONG ENOUGH TO KEEP THE CONTROVERSY FROM

JEOPARDIZING CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS; AND 2) AVOIDING ACCUSATIONS THAT THE EC BY SLOWING UP HEARINGS IS NOT SUPPORTING THE PRINCIPLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, A PRINCIPLE WHICH MANY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS HOLD PARTICULARLY DEAR. THE CONCLUSION OF THE EXPERTS COMMITTEE WAS TO RECOMMEND TO THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS THAT THE EC SEEK TO GIVE THE TURKS ADEQUATE TIME TO SUBMIT THEIR OWN REBUTTAL "MEMORIAL", A PROCESS WHICH IT WAS ENVISAGED WOULD TAKE SOME TWO MONTHS. THIS WOULD CARRY THE ISSUE UP TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, NOT SCHEDULED TO BE HELD UNTIL APRIL 27. EVEN THAT DATE MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE TOO SOON TO GIVE THE TURKS ENOUGH TIME. CORMACK SAID THAT THE BRITISH HAD RECOMMENDED THIS COURSE OF ACTION, AS PRESAGED IN REFTEL (B).

3. CORMACK COMMENTED THAT NO ONE IN THE EC SEEMED TO DOUBT THE ACCURACY OF THE REPORT. HOWEVER, THEY REALIZE THAT PLENTY OF TURKISH CYPRIOTS WERE MASSACRED AS WELL, AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO EVIDENCE OF A DELIBERATE POLICY OF EXTERMINATION SANCTIONED BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT.

4. CORMACK DID NOT EXPECT TOO MUCH ADDITIONAL TROUBLE FROM THE SUNDAY TIMES STORY (REFTEL A), AND NOTED THAT NONE OF THE LEADING NEWSPAPERS HAD FOCUSED ON IT IN THE LAST TWO DAYS. HOWEVER, HE REPORTED THAT PREDICTABLY THE PRO-GREEK CYPRIOT LOBBY WAS ALREADY PRODDING THE FCO ON THE REPORT, THROUGH BOTH PERSONAL CALLS ON THE FCO AND CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SUBMISSION OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS.

5. CORMACK REPORTED THAT IN THE REST OF THE DISCUSSION ON CYPRUS IN THE EC EXPERTS COMMITTEE, THE MEMBERS TOOK UP THE PROSPECTS FOR RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS AND AGREED THE EC SHOULD WAIT UNTIL THE POSITION OF THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION IS FORMULATED. HOWEVER, THEY ALSO AGREED THAT THE PRESENT TEXT OF THE "PRINCIPLES" IS A GOOD ONE AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE EFFORT THAT WENT INTO COMPOSING THEM WOULD NOT BE WASTED.

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

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